

23.0 REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has completed its review of the economic simplified boiling-water reactor (ESBWR) standard design. The ACRS Subcommittee on ESBWR met with representatives from GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on several occasions to discuss the ESBWR design.

On the basis of its reviews, the ACRS issued interim letter reports, dated November 20, 2007, March 20, 2008, May 23, 2008, July 21, 2008, October 29, 2008, and December 22, 2008. The staff responded to the interim letter reports in its letters dated February 1, 2008, April 24, 2008, July 8, 2008, August 15, 2008, December 2, 2008, and February 13, 2009, as well as during related meetings with the ACRS. At the 576th meeting of the ACRS, the full Committee considered the GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy application for certification of the ESBWR standard design, and issued its final letter report to the NRC Chairman on October 20, 2010. That letter report is included as Appendix F to this report. In addition, the attachment to that letter report provides a chronology of the related ACRS reviews.

In its final letter report dated October 20, 2010, the ACRS concluded that the ESBWR design is robust and there is reasonable assurance that it can be built and operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.